**Seifert/Paisley**

1. **Pre-reading- students will complete the vocabulary word chart.**
2. **During reading – Students will complete Nacerima reading as a class and answer the prompts on their own.**
3. **Post-reading- Participate in a silent discussion**

**\* All sheets and reading attached**

Examples

Use the word in a sentence

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Definition

Word

**CULTURE**

**"Body Ritual among the Nacirema"**

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| The magical beliefs and practices of the Nacirema have been studied because they present such unusual aspects of culture. They are an example of the extremes to which human behavior can go. |  | |
| Professor Linton first brought the ritual of the Nacirema to the attention of anthropologists twenty years ago, but the culture of this people is still very poorly understood. They are a North American group living in the territory between the Canadian Cree, the Yaqui and Tarahumare of Mexico. Little is known of their origin, although tradition states that they came from the east.  Reaction:  Question:  Opinion: |  | |
| While much of the people's time is devoted to economic pursuits, a considerable portion of the day is spent in ritual activity. The focus of this activity is the human body. The appearance and health of the human body is a huge concern for the Nacerima. While such a concern is certainly not unusual, its ceremonial aspects are unique. |  | |
| The fundamental belief underlying the whole system appears to be that the human body is ugly. Their only hope is the use of rituals and ceremonies to improve appearance. Every household has one or more shrines devoted to this purpose. The more powerful individuals in the society have several shrines in their house.  Reaction:  Question:  Opinion: |  | |
| While each family has at least one such shrine, the rituals associated with it are not family ceremonies but are private and secret. The rites are normally only discussed with children, and then only during the period when they are being initiated into these mysteries. |  | |
| The focal point of the shrine is a box or chest which is built into the wall. In this chest are kept the many charms and magical potions that the natives believe they could live without. |  | |
| Reaction:  Question:  Opinion: |  | |
|  |  | |
| The Nacirema have a horror of and fascination with the mouth, the condition of which is believed to have a supernatural influence on all social relationships. Were it not for the rituals of the mouth, they believe that their teeth would fall out, their gums bleed, their jaws shrink, their friends desert them and their lovers reject them. |  | |
| The daily body ritual performed by everyone includes a mouth-rite. Despite the fact that these people are so thorough about care of the mouth, this rite involves a practice which strikes some as revolting. It consists of inserting a small bundle of hog hairs into the mouth, along with certain magical powders, and then moving the bundle in a series of gestures.  In addition to the private mouth-rite, the people seek out a holy-mouth-man once or twice a year. The holy-mouth-man opens the client's mouth and, using tools, enlarges any holes which decay may have created in the teeth. Magical materials are put into these holes. If there are no naturally occurring holes in the teeth, large sections of one or more teeth are gouged out so that the supernatural substance can be applied.  Reaction:  Question:  Opinion:  Certain daily body rituals are performed only by the men of the Nacerima. One ritual includes scraping and lacerating the surface of the face with a sharp instrument. Some special women's rites are performed that consist of using scalding hot pieces of metal to bake their hair. Their rituals are often uncomfortable and painful but the Nacerima see them as being of utmost importance and sometimes even necessary.  Reaction:  Question:  Opinion: |  | |
| Post Reading: SILENT Discussion. Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!  Use the space below to write an overall reaction to the reading. You will pass it to the student to the RIGHT of you. When you receive a paper, write a response to your classmate’s reaction. |  | |
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